

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Serial Number: 08/991,143

Filing Date: December 16, 1997

Title: METHODS TO TREAT UNDESIRABLE IMMUNE RESPONSES

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effective to alter the aberrant, pathogenic or undesirable antibody production [prevent or inhibit at least one symptom of said indication or disease], wherein the sequence of the epitope peptide comprises [an] a universal, immunodominant epitope, and wherein the peptide comprises less than the sequence of the antigen[, and wherein the antigen comprises said immunodominant epitope sequence].

- B¹
2. (Amended) A method of preventing or inhibiting an indication or disease associated with aberrant, pathogenic or undesirable antibody production which is specific for a particular antigen, comprising: administering to the respiratory tract of a mammal afflicted with, or at risk of, the indication or disease a dosage form comprising an amount of at least one epitope peptide, a variant thereof or a combination thereof, effective to suppress, tolerize or inhibit the priming or activity of, T cells of said mammal, wherein the T cells are specific for the antigen, wherein the sequence of the epitope peptide comprises [an] a universal, immunodominant epitope sequence, and wherein the peptide comprises less than the sequence of the antigen[, and wherein the antigen comprises the immunodominant epitope sequence].

full
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3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the administration is effective to reduce or inhibit the amount of said antibody [or the affinity of said antibody] for an antigen comprising said peptide.

5m
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8. (Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the administration is effective to reduce or inhibit the amount of said antibody [or the affinity of said antibody] for an antigen comprising said peptide.

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16. (Amended) The method of claim [15] 1 or 2 wherein the antigen is an exogenous antigen from a domestic cat.

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17. (Amended) A method to tolerize a mammal to an antigen associated with aberrant, pathogenic or undesirable antibody production in the mammal, comprising: administering to the respiratory tract of the mammal at least one epitope peptide, a variant thereof or a combination thereof, having a universal immunodominant epitope sequence [to the mammal] in an amount effective to tolerize the mammal to an antigen having [said] the epitope, wherein the sequence of the epitope peptide comprises an immunodominant epitope sequence, and wherein the peptide comprises less than the sequence of the antigen.

- 24 Sub I. 31.
31. (Amended) The method of claim 1, 2, or 17[, 22, 23 or 24] wherein the administration does not increase synthesis of pathogenic antibody to the native antigen.

Please add the following new claims:

- Sub I. 1
34. (New) The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the administration is effective to reduce or inhibit the affinity of the antibody for an antigen comprising said peptide.
35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the antigen is an endogenous antigen.
36. (New) The method of claim 35 wherein the endogenous antigen is the acetylcholine receptor, insulin, growth hormone, factor VIII or factor IX.
37. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the antigen is an exogenous antigen.
38. (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the antigen is a fungal antigen.
39. (New) The method of claim 1, 2 or 17 further comprising administering an agent that inhibits B cell activation.